

(e) the steps proposed to give more focus to protection of cattle as a major income for farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) As per the results of latest Livestock Censum, during the year 2003 there were 185 million cattle in the country.

(b) During the year 2003, 1956 cattle were affected by the "Foot and Mouth Disease".

(c) The Union Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments to ensure efficient health coverage of the cattle population through Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD), National Project on Rinderpest Eradication (NPRE) and Food and Mouth Disease Control Programme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Government has started a new scheme Livestock Insurance on pilot basis in 100 selected districts across all the States except Goa during 2005-06 for a period of two years with the objective of protecting farmers from unexpected losses and popularizing rearing of improved breeds of cattle and buffalo.

Subsidy to the farmers

436. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers are not getting price of their production of grains and fruits in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh vis-a-vis the increase in price of fertilizers, seeds and plans for agricultural and horticulture production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government considers to grant some more subsidy to farmers in this behalf; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government's Price Policy for

agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supply at reasonable prices. To achieve this end, Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operation for paddy, wheat and coarse cereals through public and cooperative agencies e.g. Food Corporation of India (FCI). Government decides on the support prices for agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Government announces Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for horticulture produce such as apple, malta, kinnow, santra and galgal in the States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh on receipt of specific request from the concerned State Governments.

Assistance to farmers is also provided under National Project on Organic Farming, Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Subsidies are given by both the Central and State Governments for the agriculture sector under several schemes benefiting the farmers. Quantum of subsidies provided to agriculture sector in India as compiled by Central Statistical Organization (CSO) during 2002-03 to 2004-05 (latest) is given in the Statement.

Statement

Subsidies to Agriculture Sector

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Item	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Fertilizer (Total)	11015	11847	16127
	1.1 Indigenous fertilizer	7790	8521	10243
	1.2 Imported Fertilizer	--		742
	1.3 Sale of decontrolled fertilizer with concession to farmers.	3225	3326	5142

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Irrigation## Other subsidies given to marginal farmers and Farmers' Cooperative	15012	11142	12990
3.	Societies in the form of seeds, development of oil seeds, pulses etc.,	3133	4018	NA

SOURCE: 1. Fertilisers and other subsidies given to marginal farmers: Expenditure Budget 2006-07, Vol. 1 of Central Government.

2. Electricity & Irrigation: Central Statistical Organization.

NA: Not available.

##: The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low as a matter of policy, resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as imputed irrigation subsidy.

Area under drip irrigation

437. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of land brought under drip-irrigation during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which the productivity of land has increased due to it; and

(c) the details of the plan of Government to bring 25 per cent of the cultivable area under drip irrigation and the details thereof for the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) the details of area coverage under drip irrigation is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) The task force on Micro Irrigation has indicated an increase in average productivity upto 75% in respect of widely spaced crops and upto 87.5% in respect of closely spaced crops due to adoption of drip irrigation.

(c) Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored scheme on "Micro Irrigation" in the year 2005-06 during the Tenth Plan period. The scheme is likely to be continued during Eleventh Plan period and is expected to